

May 13, 2010

1400 CST

Water Quality Protection Division

Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 10**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: May 13, 2010

Reporting Period: May 13, 2010 1300 – May 14, 2010 1300

Situation Status:

NOAA forecasts created on 5/12/10 at 2000 CDT for 5/13/10 at 1800 CDT forecasts the main portion of the oil slick to remain southeast of the Mississippi Delta stretching northward towards the southern end of the Chandeleur Islands. The forecast also indicates there could be portions of the slick behind the Chandeleur Islands, south of Barataria and Timbalier Bay as well as west of Isles Dernieres. Winds are forecast to be predominately from the southeast throughout the remainder of the week and may push more oil onto the shoreline.

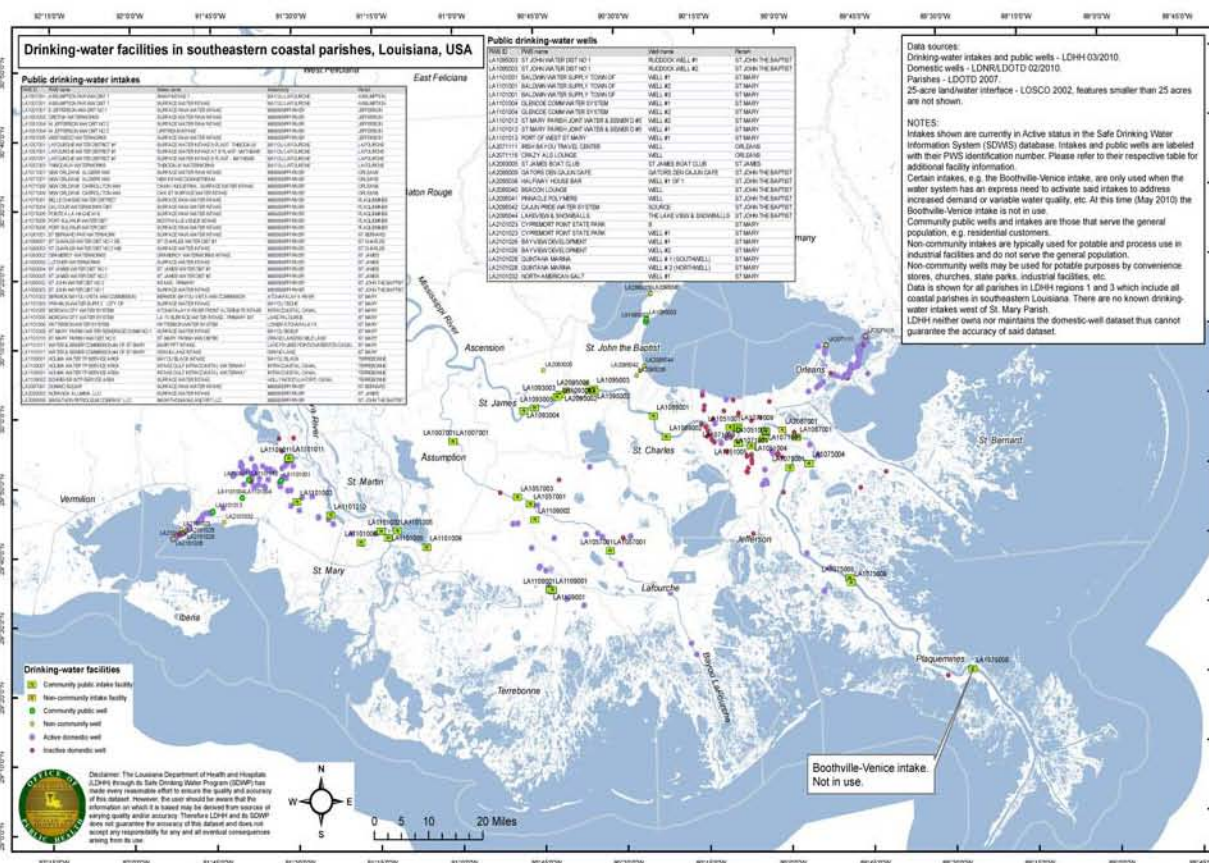
Figure 1: NOAA Oil Slick Estimate provided in NOAA situational report for Deepwater Horizon incident at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continued daily meetings with OW, R4, and Emergency Response
- Yesterday afternoon, staff briefed Division Director on status of spill response and Water Division coordination.
- Staff working on dispersant monitoring plan for waters beyond 3 nautical miles from the shoreline.
- Working with environmental response unit to evaluate subsurface dispersant monitoring data.
 - This data is being used to determine if application of dispersant at the leak is causing adverse effects to marine organisms.
- Staff providing comments on R4 QAPPs for shoreline data collection and continuation of monitoring at baseline locations.
 - R6 is working to modify R4's plan to use for post-impact monitoring, and is working to maximize consistency.
- Attending State and Federal coordination call this afternoon.
 - Call will focus on evaluating what each agency is doing and will aid in reduction of sampling redundancy.

Drinking Water

- Attached map is from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) and includes Southeastern Louisiana. The public drinking water system data is current and accurate, however, LDHH does not maintain a data set for domestic wells (wells owned by individuals and not regulated by LDHH/EPA) so the accuracy cannot be guaranteed.
- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- LDHH requested EPA water and sediment sample results. Providing LDHH with the daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- Continue to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.



Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- Dr. Mark Hester sent several pictures of tar balls on Whiskey Island. Dr. Hester is currently planting the dune on Whiskey Island as part of his EPA sponsored demonstration project (TE-53) on Whiskey Island.
 - TE-27 Whiskey Island Restoration, TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation, and TE-53 Enhancement of Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration are EPA sponsored projects on Whiskey Island.
 - Planting activities associated with TE-50 and TE-53 are ongoing
 - Contact Brad Crawford (214-665-7255) for any questions regarding TE-27 and TE-50.
 - Contact Ken Teague (214-665-6687) for any questions regarding TE-53.
 - Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is ready to deploy booms on Whiskey Island should it be deemed necessary.

Figure 2 Tar balls on beach at Whiskey Island

Figure 3 Dead sea turtle coated in tar balls on Whiskey Island.

- List of CWPPRA projects that may or have become impacted. The list will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Barrier Islands

- PO-27, Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (NMFS Sponsored)
- TE-18, Timbalier Island Planting Demonstration (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-20, Isles Dernieres Restoration East Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-24, Isles Dernieres Restoration Trinity Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-27, Whiskey Island Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-37, New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-45A, Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-48, Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-52 Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-67, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 1 (NMFS sponsored)
- TE-67B, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (NMFS sponsored)

Headlands

- TE-23, West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (USACE Sponsored)

Marsh

- MR-09, Delta Wide Crevasses (NMFS sponsored)

Coastal Habitat Impacts

OW Ecological Impact Team:

- Continuing efforts to build upon the combined OW, Region 6, and Region 4 ecological impacts document for use by OW managers, as well on worst case scenarios and ecological Q's and A's.

Plaquemines Parish Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Ongoing coordination and analyses with OW, Region 6, and Region 4 regarding the coastal protection plan ("the Plaquemines Plan," "the Dutch Solution").
- The State of Louisiana applied for a Corps of Engineers NOD 20 emergency permit to construct sand barriers in the Chandeleur and Grand Terre Island areas to reduce inland movement of the oil. A set of comments, outlining numerous significant concerns, was drafted and coordinated with OW. The comments may be forwarded to the Corps later today. Staff will attend an interagency meeting with the Parish is planned for 5/14/10.

National Estuary Programs (NEPs):

- All three Region 6 NEP Directors, as well as Ecosystem Protection Branch staff will participate in the OW Gulf Monitoring Coordination conference call this afternoon. OW solicited input from the Directors and other stakeholders in order discuss ongoing and planned monitoring and sampling efforts and the potential for coordinating these efforts.

Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Ongoing consultations with both the New Orleans and Galveston Corps Districts regarding maintenance dredging and dredged material management options for major navigation projects, focusing particularly on the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Surface Water Center completed mapping the areas of tidal influence and the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone. No additional requests have been received.

NPDES

- Continued coordination with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting questions asked by BP regarding oil recovery dome and relief well operations.
- NPDES Permits and TMDLs Branch stands ready to provide technical assistance as needed.